Read pages 23 to 26 of *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, then use whatever resources you have to answer the questions below. To understand where power lies today, you must understand where it resided yesterday. You might even think of power as a fixed amount; someone always has some of it somewhere. Some have more than others.

1. Racism had two sources in America. What does Professor Alexander say about each of them?

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1. Oldest trick in the book. Human beings do not easily kill, or even abuse, other human beings. The trick is to make the “other” into something that is not human. During World War II, we invented “krauts” and “japs.” During the Vietnam War, we invented “gooks.” The United States is *not alone* in this practice. According to Professor Alexander, whom did the powerful in America de-humanize? For what purpose?

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1. What is an indentured servant?
2. Explain “racial bribe.”

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For the next question, please read this: Aristotle also made the point that if you have, in a perfect democracy, a small number of very rich people and a large number of very poor people, the poor will use their democratic rights to take property away from the rich. Aristotle regarded that as unjust, and proposed two possible solutions: reducing poverty (which is what he recommended) or reducing democracy….James Madison, who was no fool, noted the same problem, but unlike Aristotle, he aimed to reduce democracy rather than poverty. He believed that the primary goal of government is "to protect the minority of the opulent [rich] against the majority." As his colleague John Jay was fond of putting it, "The people who own the country ought to govern it."

Throughout our history, political power has been, by and large, in the hands of those who own the country. There have been some limited variations on that theme, like the New Deal. FDR had to respond to the fact that the public was not going to tolerate the existing situation. He left power in the hands of the rich, but bound them to a kind of social contract. That was nothing new, and it will happen again.

--Noam Chomsky, “That Dangerous Radical Aristotle,” excerpted from *The Common Good*, 1998

1. When Professor Alexander looks at the overall picture, does she see race as the only issue?

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1. How did slavery shape the federal system in America? [25]

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1. How did slavery lead to the creation of the electoral college? How does the electoral college work? [26]

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1. What does Professor Alexander mean by “institution of slavery was put to rest”? [26]

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1. What is the definition of the word “rationalization” in a dictionary?

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1. What does “rationalization” mean in your own words?

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1. Use the word “rationalize” or “rationalization” in a paragraph explaining what has happened with race over time in America.

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